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(54) **PESSARY**

(57) **Abstract:**

(54) **PESSAIRE**

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S P E C I F I C A T I O N .

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:-

Be it known that I, William M. Findley, a citizen of the United States and resident of the City, County and State of New York, Doctor of Medicine, having invented certain new and useful improvements in Pessary Construction, do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear and exact description of the same.

The object of this invention is to provide an improved device known in the medical profession as a pessary.

These devices are used by gynecologists and obstetricians in the vagina to prevent or correct a downward or backward displacement of the uterus and, in some cases, to support the anterior and posterior walls of the vagina.

The device must be of the proper shape and size to fit the individual case and it is essential that it be rigid in a longitudinal direction, as the lower end rests upon the rami of the pubic bone and the muscles of the pelvic floor and the upper end holds the uterus in position by pressure against the posterior fornix of the upper end of the vagina.

It is also important that the device be smooth to obviate irritation or injury to the mucous membrane and it must be light in weight to avoid excessive downward pressure, which is not only uncomfortable but tends to cause displacement of the device. The material used in its construction must allow of shaping to fit the individual case, it must have sufficient strength or rigidity to withstand the strain of prolonged pressure without sagging or breaking and it must be Non-corrosive because of its constant exposure to secretions and antiseptics used in douching.

The object of the present invention is the provision of a practical device having the above noted requirements and which, by reason of its novel construction, may be readily inserted through the introitus or entrance to the vagina without causing pain or injury and which, when inserted, will have the required size, shape and rigidity to perform its required function, and which may be readily removed, as is required at least once a month.

In designing this device to meet the requirements and objects of a device of the class described, I have provided a pair of rigid side members joined by resilient portions normally holding the side members in extended position to provide a rigid support in a longitudinal direction while permitting the side members to be manipulated by the operator and folded together in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the device and adapted to restore and retain the rigid side members to their normal positions when released.

One form of such device, with several modifications of the means for securing the resilient members to the rigid side members, is shown in the accompanying drawings as illustrative of the invention and the various features heretofore set out generally, as well as other features of the same, as will be apparent from the description of the device illustrated.

In the drawings, like parts in the several views have been given the same reference numeral.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a device illustrating the invention. The normal or operative position of the parts is shown in full lines while its folded position, ready for insertion through the introitus, or removal therethrough, is shown in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is an enlarged sectional view

showing one form of resilient joint or connection between the ends of the rigid side members and Figs. 3, 4 and 5 are similar views showing different modifications of the construction of the resilient joint.

The rigid side members are shown at 1 and 2 in Fig. 1 and in their folded together position in dotted outline at 1' and 2', respectively. These members may be of hard rubber, moulded to meet the required shape, size, etc. The ends of these side members are bent inwardly toward each other.

The resilient portion joining the ends of the rigid side members 1 and 2 may be of soft rubber and, if desired, may be reinforced by a resilient member 3, which may be round, flat or other shape suitable, extending into the ends of the rigid side members 1 and 2, respectively, as shown in Fig. 2. This resilient member may be secured by moulding the ends thereof in the opposed ends of the side members, in the manner indicated in Figs. 2 and 3, or a ferrule, such as shown at 8 in Fig. 4 or at 12 in Fig. 5, may serve as the means of attachment.

It is important, as previously pointed out, that the outer surfaces of the device be smooth and continuous and free from sharp edges. The resilient portion shown in Fig. 1 or the yielding covering 4 shown in Fig. 2 is positioned between the opposed ends of the side members 1 and 2 and provides a smooth, continuous outer surface for the device. When the reinforcing resilient member 3 is used, the resilient covering 4 encloses the intermediate portion of the member 3, as shown in Fig. 2 and this resilient portion or covering is preferably slightly compressed between the ends of the side members 1 and 2 so that when the same are folded it will expand and prevent any opening of the parts at the juncture of the same and will preserve the smooth and continuous outer surface of the device.

In the form shown in Fig. 3, this resilient covering 5 is formed to enclose the ends of the side members, indicated at 6, as well as the reinforcing resilient member 7. In Fig. 4, the covering 9 is formed to enclose both the ferrule 8 and the ends of the side members, as indicated at 10, and in Fig. 5, the covering 14 encloses the ferrule 12, mounted on the reduced portion 11 of the side members, and also the ends thereof, as indicated at 15, and the resilient member 3. These different forms of coverings may be of soft rubber.

On account of the construction described, the device furnishes the necessary support because of its rigidity in a longitudinal direction, from its lower to its upper end, and, at the same time permits the rigid side members to be manipulated or folded together in a transverse direction and, on account of the relatively small cross-sectional dimension when folded, it may be readily inserted and positioned without pain or injury being inflicted upon the patient. When inserted and positioned, the side members are automatically restored to their normal positions and the device then has the necessary transverse dimensions to perform its intended functions.

The removal of the device is accomplished by reversing the operation just described. That is, the doctor closes the side members together and, holding the same closed, can readily remove the device through the introitus without injury to the patient or causing pain.

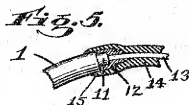
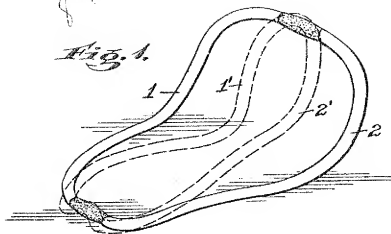
It will be apparent that these results could not be accomplished if the device were of the required dimensions to perform its functions and made either entirely of rigid construction or entirely resilient throughout its extent and the combined features of rigid side members joined by resilient portions and provided with a continuous, smooth surface presents a device having great utility.

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What I do claim as my invention and desire to secure by letters patent is:-

1. A device of the class described, comprising rigid side members joined by resilient portions connected to and holding the ends of said rigid side members in spaced relation to each other, the outer surfaces of the side members and resilient portions being smooth and continuous and without sharp angular joints, the said resilient portions normally holding said rigid side members in extended position to provide a rigid support in a longitudinal direction while permitting said side members to be manipulated and folded together in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the device and adapted to restore the said members to their normal positions when released.

2. A device of the class described, comprising rigid side members joined by resilient portions, and a resilient yielding covering compressed between the opposed ends of said rigid side members and enclosing each of said resilient portions, providing a smooth and continuous outer surface of said device, said rigid side members being normally held by said resilient portions to extended positions to provide a rigid support in a longitudinal direction while permitting said side members to be manipulated and folded together in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the device and adapted to restore the said members to their normal relative positions when released.



Certified to be the drawing referred to
in the specification hereunto annexed.

Feb. 16th 1932. At New York, N. Y.

INVENTOR,

William M. Findley,

By *Lewis J. Doolittle,*
ATTORNEY.